



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

July 7, 2021

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Discuss/consider request of the Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee (RESJ) to allow the RESJ's Police Practices and Public Safety Alternatives (PPPSA) subcommittee to not be subject to the Brown Act and direct staff as appropriate

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss/consider request of the Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee to allow the RESJ's Police Practices and Public Safety Alternatives subcommittee to not be subject to the Brown Act and direct staff as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

On June 16, 2021, the Council held a joint study session with the Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee to discuss budgetary issues, operational issues, and a request to make the PPPSA subcommittee not subject to the Brown Act. At the joint meeting, RESJ members indicated PPPSA public virtual meetings have had a harmful effect on and/or created an unsafe environment for some subcommittee members because it is open to the public and the meetings recorded. The Council indicated it would consider the request of the RESJ regarding the PPPSA at a future Council meeting.

With the formation of the RESJ, the staff report indicated both the RESJ and its PPPSA subcommittee would be subject to the Brown Act. The Brown Act requires meetings to be open to the public and to have agendas posted prior to meetings regarding items for discussion and/or consideration. While the RESJ is required to be subject to the Brown Act, the PPPSA is only subject to the Brown Act because of the Council's desire to do so. The rationale is that the PPPSA may make recommendations which may affect police services and it is important that the community be allowed to see and hear the discussions regarding such recommendations. However, it should be noted that as a matter of process, any PPPSA recommendations would need to be brought to the RESJ first for discussion/consideration and that the RESJ would decide whether to forward any recommendations to the Council for discussion/consideration.

It should also be noted that the RESJ and PPPSA virtual meetings do not need to be recorded. Staff would prefer not to record the meetings because this would save the costs and effort to post the recordings on the website. It costs the Town \$165 per meeting to post the recordings on the website because the Zoom recordings need to be converted to YouTube by CMCM in order for the recordings to be available on the website in perpetuity. Should the Council agree with this staff recommendation, the RESJ and PPPSA meetings would no longer be recorded and the recordings removed from the Town website.

FISCAL IMPACT

n/a

ATTACHMENT: None